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## **Kings Island popular family vacation destination**

*Kings Island delivers fun that also thrills the family budget*

KINGS ISLAND, Ohio – For nearly four decades, it has been the premier entertainment destination in the Midwest for millions of families seeking the best in rides, shows, games, food and fun, all in a magical setting. Kings Island. Where else?

Located off I-71, 24 miles north of Cincinnati and 36 miles south of Dayton, the 364-acre family entertainment center enters its 37th season in 2009.

Since opening in 1972, Kings Island has worked hard to ensure a visit to the park is a vacation to remember for the entire family. Kings Island provides memorable fun for visitors of all ages, from children to grandparents.

Kings Island offers a complete entertainment package with more than 80 rides, shows and attractions. The park has grown to the point that it takes a full two days to see and do everything.

New in 2009 is Diamondback. The tallest, fastest and meanest roller coaster to ever strike Kings Island stands 230 feet at its highest point with a first drop of 215 feet at a 74-degree angle. The ride features 10 vertical drops overall including drops of 193, 131, 129, 110 and 106 feet; two helixes and a spectacular splashdown ending. Riders will snake their way around 5,282 feet of track in excess of 80 miles per hour!

There's also legendary Beast roller coaster, the longest wooden roller coaster in the world at 7,400 feet celebrating 30 years of terror in 2009. Son of Beast – the tallest and fastest wooden roller coaster in the world. Vortex. Invertigo. Delirium. Drop Tower. White Water Canyon. Scooby Doo and the Haunted Castle. Firehawk – Ohio's only flying coaster. The thrills just never seem to end.

Bring the kids and find out why Nickelodeon Universe has been voted Best Kids Area in the World eight years in a row by the readers of Amusement Today.

Expanding over two exciting neighborhoods dedicated to kid favorites like SpongeBob SquarePants and Dora the Explorer, Nickelodeon Universe features 18 attractions and more kids' coasters than any other park in the world!

Located at the front gate and occasionally wandering through the park are your favorite Nickelodeon characters. Have your camera ready to snap a photo of your favorite pals from Nickelodeon TV shows and movies.

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Other popular family attractions include the Eiffel Tower (one-third scale replica of the original Eiffel Tower in Paris, France), Grand Carousel, Scrambler, Dodgem, Monster and the Kings Island and Miami Valley Railroad.

Explore the coolest way to beat the heat in our splashtacular 15-acre waterpark resort.

Boomerang Bay features more than 30 water slides, tropical lagoons, rushing rivers, surfable waves, 36,000 square-foot wave pool, three family activity areas and careening waterfalls surrounded by lush landscaping.

Guests can also relax in style at Boomerang Bay with our five-star chair-side waiter service, cabanas, full bar facilities and family changing rooms.

Boomerang Bay is included free with park admission.

Kings Island's thrills don't just end with the rides. Our live entertainment is amazing too! From high-energy shows featuring the songs that defined the decade of the 80's and country music revues to incredibly cool ice-skating and character meet and greets, everyone in the family will love our entertainment. It's nothing less than spectacular.

The 2009 season will feature three original new live shows: Down Home Country, Don't Stop the Music and Marty's Party. Popular returning shows include Endless Summer on Ice, The County Line and Flashback: Totally 80's!

Guests can take a break and enjoy regional favorites like LaRosa's Pizza, Skyline Chili, and Graeters Ice Cream. Cinnabon, Chick-Fil-A, Panda Express and Starbucks are name-brand choices, in addition to park standards like hamburgers, hot dogs, deli sandwiches, and fried or roaster chicken. Try out a variety of tasty treats such as: Panini sandwiches; funnel cakes; giant pecan cinnamon rolls; Jolly Rancher slushies; fruit smoothies; blueberry, chocolate and vanilla ice cream; fresh-thick-cut fries; gourmet hand-roller pretzels; refreshing Lemon Chill; Dip 'n' Dots (The Ice Cream of the Future); and roasted Bavarian nuts at more than 30 food and beverage locations located throughout the park.

Throughout the season Kings Island presents its spectacular fireworks display on days the park closes at 10:00pm. This colorful pageant in the sky is something that will certainly cap off a memorable day at the park. You don't want to miss it!

In the fall, Kings Island transforms into Halloween Haunt. There's nowhere to run and nowhere to hide. Screams of pure panic pierce the night. There's nowhere you're safe in the most immersive horror experience around.

The bloodcurdling horror, mind-bending terror and nightmarish madness of Halloween Haunt features more than 500 ghastly creatures emerging from the darkness, 13 highly-intense and chilling haunted attractions and some of the most hair-raising rides on the planet! Gates to the underworld are open until 1:00am every Friday and Saturday Night from September 25 through October 31. No one and nothing is off limits! Included free with park admission.

Howl-O-Fest is an interactive event in the fall that includes a costume parade with great prizes, a fun-scary not scary-scary adult-sized maze, a gigantic hay bale maze, a pumpkin patch, dance party, candy stops and all kinds of activities. It's the perfect place to create family memories that will last a lifetime. Included free with park admission.

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Kings Island will be open on five preview weekends: April 18; 24, 25, 26; May 1, 2, 3; 8, 9, 10; and 15, 16, 17. The park will be open daily from May 22 through August 30.

Kings Island will be open on seven post-season weekends: September 4, 5, 6, 7; 25, 26, 27; and October 2, 3, 4; 9, 10, 11; 16, 17, 18; 23, 24, 25; 30, 31; and November 1.

For a daily park operating calendar, visit [www.visitkingsisland.com/visit/visit\\_calendar.cfm](http://www.visitkingsisland.com/visit/visit_calendar.cfm).

Kings Island opens at 10:00am except for September, October and November when the park opens at 7:00pm on Friday nights and 11:00am on Saturdays and Sundays. Park closing times vary from 7:00pm to 1:00am.

There are several ways for visitors to take advantage of discount tickets to the park. Discounted tickets are available when purchased in advance by calling (800) 288-0808, online at [www.visitkingsisland.com](http://www.visitkingsisland.com) and in many cities at participating Kroger, Meijer and Discount Drug Mart locations.

If vacationers plan on visiting the park more than two times, a Season Pass is the way to go. A season pass gives unlimited access to the park and waterpark all season long.

Accommodations for travelers are plentiful – more than 30 affordable hotels are within five miles of the park – nearly 100 within 20 minutes – ranging from budget to luxury. For accommodations, you can go to the park’s website at [www.visitkingsisland.com](http://www.visitkingsisland.com) to check out an array of choices.

The Great Wolf Lodge is the official resort of Kings Island. This is the only lodging available directly on the park’s grounds. With a 75,000 square-foot indoor waterpark, 401 guest suites and a 40,000 square-foot conference center, the Great Wolf Lodge at Kings Island is among the largest resorts in the United States. Visit [www.greatwolflodge.com](http://www.greatwolflodge.com) for more information or call (800) 913-WOLF.

For those vacationers with a few more days to spend in the area, there are many fun activities for families to enjoy near the park. Golfers will love the courses of Shaker Run and Crooked Tree golf clubs. Fort Ancient is home of venerable Native American Indians Burial mounds; Morgan’s Canoe Livery is for canoeing on one of the country’s top 10 scenic rivers, and the Little Miami Scenic Trail has 70 miles of paved multi-purpose trails for biking, hiking, rollerblading or horseback riding.

Closer to the city of Cincinnati, visitors can enjoy the world-class Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, the educated Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal (three museums in one), the Cincinnati Reds Major League Baseball team, and Newport on the Levee, a high-energy shopping and entertainment venue across from the Ohio River in Newport, Kentucky.

For more information about Kings Island, guests can call the park toll free at (800) 288-0808 or visit the park’s website at [www.visitkingsisland.com](http://www.visitkingsisland.com).

Kings Island is owned and operated by Cedar Fair Entertainment Company, a publicly traded partnership that is listed for trading on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “FUN.” In addition to Kings Island, Cedar Fair owns and operates ten other amusement parks, six water parks, one indoor water park resort and five hotels. Cedar Fair also operates the Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park in Gilroy, Calif. under a management contract.

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